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House of Representatives

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-351) on the resolution (H. Res. 275) providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING PROVISIONS OF CLAUSE 4(B) OF RULE XI AGAINST CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-352) on the resolution (H. Res. 276) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—REQUESTING REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT REGARDING ETHICS COMPLAINTS AGAINST SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and pursuant to rule IX, I offer a resolution on behalf of myself and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. JOHNSTON] and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 277

Whereas the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is currently considering several ethics complaints against Speaker Newt Gingrich;

Whereas the Committee has traditionally handled such cases by appointing an independent, non-partisan, outside counsel—a procedure which has been adopted in every major ethics case since the Committee was established;

Whereas, although complaints against Speaker Gingrich have been under consideration for more than 14 months, the Committee has failed to appoint an outside counsel;

Whereas the Committee has also deviated from other long-standing precedents and rules of procedure; including its failure to adopt a Resolution of Preliminary Inquiry before calling third-party witnesses and receiving sworn testimony;

Whereas these procedural irregularities and the unusual delay in the appointment of an independent, outside counsel—have led to widespread concern that the Committee is making special exceptions for the Speaker of the House;

Whereas the integrity of the House depends on the confidence of the American people in the fairness and impartiality of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Therefore be it resolved that;

The Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct should report to the House, no later than November 28, 1995, concerning:

The status of the Committee's investigation of the complaints against Speaker Gingrich;

The Committee's disposition with regard to the appointment of a non-partisan outside counsel and the scope of the counsel's investigation;

A timetable for Committee action on the complaints.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair holds that the resolution gives rise to a question of the privileges of the House concerning the integrity of its proceedings.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. JOHNSTON of Florida. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I understand that a motion to table will be made. In the event that the mo-

tion to table is passed, this would be an adverse disposition of the privileged resolution.

My inquiry, Mr. Speaker, is, with minor changes of the privileged resolution, would it be in order for the gentleman from Florida [Mr. PETERSON] and myself to file a similar resolution tomorrow and each business day from now to the conclusion of the 104th Congress?

□ 2045

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LINDER). The Chair will note that proper questions of privilege may be renewed.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. ARMEY

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, the rules of the House prohibit members of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct from discussing ongoing business. Accordingly, I offer a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

Mr. ARMEY moves to lay the resolution on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARMEY].

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORD VOTE

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 177, answered "present" 10, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 815]

AYES—219

Allard	Barrett (NE)	Bilirakis
Archer	Bartlett	Bliley
Armey	Barton	Blute
Bachus	Bass	Boehlert
Baker (CA)	Bateman	Boehner
Ballenger	Bereuter	Bonilla
Barr	Bilbray	Bono

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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